

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the South Yorkshire Branch of Yorkshire Local Councils Associations held remotely on the 17 June 2020 at 6.45pm.

PRESENT

Cllr D Wright (Chairman)	Wadworth Parish Council
Cllr D Graham	Anston Parish Council
Cllr F Jackson	Askern Town Council
Cllr J Staniforth	Auckley Parish Council
Cllr Keri	Edlington Parish Council
Cllr D Smith	Hatfield Town Council
Cllr K Jay	Ravenfield Parish Council
Cllr N Pearson	Ravenfield Parish Council
Cllr D Liddell	Silkstone Parish Council
Cllr David Rowley	Ravenfield Parish Council
Cllr B Shaw	Thrybergh Parish Council
Mr A Towleron	Ulley Parish Council

ATTENDANCE

Karen Mann	Local Councils Officer, YLCA
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APOLOGIES

Cllr R Stier	Silkstone Parish Council
Cllr Gregory	Laughton Parish Council
Cllr J Worthington	Auckley Parish Council

10/20 **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

That the following officers and representatives continue in the position for the ensuing year.

Chairman: Cllr D Wright

Vice Chairman: Cllr D Liddell

The South Yorkshire Branch representatives to the YLCA Joint Executive Board were appointed for 2 years in 2019 and will therefore continue in office until June 2021.

The following remain as South Yorkshire Branch representatives to the YLCA Joint Executive Board until June 2021:

Cllr Duncan Wright (Wadworth Parish Council)
Cllr Derek Liddell (Silkstone Parish Council)
Cllr Alan Jones (Sprotbrough and Cusworth Parish Council)
Cllr David Rowley (Ravenfield Parish Council)
Cllr Ben Shaw (Thrybergh Parish Council)

RESOLVED

That the appointment of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Representative of South Yorkshire Branch to the YLCA Joint Executive Board be considered for election in 2021.

The following Councillors are elected as the Branch deputies to YLCA's Joint Executive Board:

Cllr David Smith (Dinnington St. John's Town Council)
Cllr Francis Jackson (Askern Town Council)

The representatives for the South Yorkshire Branch to the YLCA Joint Executive Board were appointed for two years in 2019. Re-election in 2021.

11/20 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, to be signed at the next meeting.

12/20 **MATTERS ARISING**

It was noted that Bramley Parish Council were non members and no contact had been made to encourage the council to become a member of YLCA.

13/20 **JOINT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Report from the branch Joint Executive Board representatives

Cllr Wright updated that the last Joint Executive Board meeting was held by zoom and there were no issues. The accounts had not yet been approved by the external auditor. It was hoped that there

would be a surplus at year end (2019/2020). The Audit Panel would seek to approve the accounts in due course.

Cllr Liddell updated that a NALC Management Board meeting had taken place and the National Assembly had proposed to the AGM an increase to £7.42 per elector with a cap of £1,900 for larger councils. This increase will come into effect in April 2021. There was a cost saving as remote meetings saved on travel costs and venue hire.

NALC are lobbying for a honeymoon period for the Public Works Loans that parish and town councils have. Once this has been considered information would be provided to everyone with an outstanding loan.

RESOLVED

That the update from Cllr Wright be noted and the minutes from the meetings be received;

The approved minutes of the Joint Executive Board meeting held on 18 January 20 draft minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 18 April 2020 be received.

14/20 **WORK OF THE ASSOCIATIONS AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

The Local Council Officers gave a report on the work of the Chief Officer and Local Councils Officers since the last meeting of the branch. The YLCA staff were working remotely and were hoping to go back to working in the office, by rota, at the end of June with 2 members of staff initially in the office until the lockdown is lifted. There had been lots of casework around COVID19, holding remote meetings, the Annual meeting of the Council and the Annual Parish meeting, preparation and submission of the AGAR, Internal Audit and lots of other topics.

The Local Council Officer was asked how many parish councils were now holding meetings remotely. The Local Councils Officer did not have the figure to hand but there were a lot of parish council's that were holding remote meetings, via Zoom and other platforms. The LCO explained that councils cannot make decisions by email, without delegated power to the Clerk. At the first meeting the Clerk would provide a report to ask the Council for retrospective approval. It was felt that remote meetings were more inclusive, especially for disabled people.

The Local Councils Officer updated that there was a new training programme with June – August training sessions included. The next training session was a webinar on Finance, which would be held on the 22 June and a webinar session on Allotments on the 8 July. The Local Councils Officer went through the webinar training sessions and explained that the Clerk and Councillors Discussion Forums were free to attend. The training sessions had been well attended and successful and they will continue in the coming months.

The Local Councils Officer updated that Karen Canadine is now working 14 hours a week and Karen Mann is working full-time.

RESOLVED

That the update from the Local Councils Officer be noted.

15/20 **BRANCH BUSINESS**

The Joint Annual meeting would take place later in the year. The Annual Review would be sent out once the auditor has completed their review.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

16/20 **CURRENT ISSUES FOR LOCAL COUNCILS**

There were no COVID19 issues discussed. A discussion took place regarding a business continuity plan and whether councils had one in place. The Local Councils Officer was asked to circulate a template document to all attendees.

RESOLVED

That a template Business Continuity Plan be circulated to attendees.

17/20 **OPEN FORUM FOR LOCAL ISSUES**

Members asked if any other councils had suffered a financial loss from not being able to hire the hall out?

There was a business grant available and Anston Parish Council had successfully received funding. The Chairman updated that Doncaster had provided a 50% reduction to the business rates and the parish council had been given this reduction without applying for it.

Edlington Parish Council had problems with people felling trees and asked if any other councils had suffered from this. Andrew Towleron was asked about TPO's and he explained that Enforcement Officers were under pressure to work from home.

A discussion took place about the new Code of Conduct for councillors. It was felt that it was not strong enough and the decision of the Monitoring Officer was only discretionary not mandatory. NALC were lobbying to have disciplinary powers put back. Any councillors breaking the law should be reported to the Police and the Police would deal with it.

Askern Town Council reported that their social housing estates had not had the grass cut on the estate. It was suggested that the Town Council appoint a private contractor instead of waiting for Doncaster Council to do it.

RESOLVED

That the updates be noted.

18/20 **TO AGREE A SPEAKER IF REQUIRED**

RESOLVED

That a speaker be invited to speak about Loan Sharks. The Local Councils Officer would contact them to come to the next meeting on the 7 October 2020.

19/20 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED

That the next meeting of YLCA South Yorkshire Branch will be held on Wednesday 7 October 2020 at 7pm. (Venue confirmed as The Masters House, High Street, Braithwell S66 7AW).

Chairman.....

Date.....